

House File 2266 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2266
BY COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 536)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to ethics regulations for gifts received at
2 certain functions and meetings.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 68B.22, subsection 4, paragraphs g and s,
2 Code 2011, are amended to read as follows:

3 *g.* Actual expenses of a donee for food, beverages,
4 registration, travel, and lodging for a meeting, which is
5 given in return for ~~participation in a panel or a~~ speaking
6 engagement as a single speaker or as part of a panel discussion
7 at the meeting when the expenses relate directly to the day
8 or days on which the donee has ~~participation or presentation~~
9 ~~responsibilities~~ a speaking engagement. For purposes of
10 this paragraph, a donee is only a person with speaking
11 responsibilities.

12 *s.* Gifts of food, beverage, and entertainment received
13 at a function where every member of the general assembly has
14 been invited to attend, when the function takes place during
15 a regular session of the general assembly. A sponsor of a
16 function under this paragraph shall file a registration at
17 least five days prior to the function taking place identifying
18 the sponsor and the date, time, and location of the function.
19 The registration shall be filed with the person or persons
20 designated by the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk
21 of the house and with the board. After a function takes place,
22 the sponsor of the function shall file a report disclosing
23 the total amount expended, including in-kind expenditures,
24 on food, beverage, and entertainment for the function. The
25 report shall be filed with the person or persons designated by
26 the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house
27 and with the board within twenty-eight calendar days following
28 the date of the function. For purposes of this paragraph,
29 "entertainment" does not include admission to a sporting event,
30 concert, theatrical performance, or other similar type of event
31 or performance that is open to the public and requires paid
32 admission.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill relates to ethics regulations for gifts received
35 at certain functions and meetings.

1 Currently, the gift law prohibits public officials, public
2 employees, and candidates, and immediate family members
3 of public officials, public employees, and candidates from
4 accepting or receiving gifts from restricted donors. The gift
5 law includes a list of exceptions that makes an otherwise
6 impermissible gift permissible.

7 Currently, one of the exceptions is for food, beverages,
8 registration, travel, and lodging for a meeting, which is given
9 in return for participation in a panel or a speaking engagement
10 at the meeting when the expenses relate directly to the day
11 or days on which the donee has participation or presentation
12 responsibilities. The bill provides that such permissible
13 gifts must be given in return for a speaking engagement
14 as a single speaker or as part of a panel discussion. The
15 bill provides that a donee is only a person with speaking
16 responsibilities.

17 Currently, one of the exceptions is for gifts of food,
18 beverage, and entertainment received at a function where every
19 member of the general assembly has been invited to attend,
20 when the function takes place during a regular session of the
21 general assembly. Currently, a sponsor of a function must
22 register a function prior to the function taking place. The
23 bill provides that the registration must be filed at least
24 five days prior to the function taking place. The bill
25 also provides that the term "entertainment" does not include
26 admission to a sporting event, concert, theatrical performance,
27 or other similar type of event or performance that is open to
28 the public and requires paid admission.